

# THE COUNTY CHRONICLE

## COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5



2025 FALL/WINTER 2026

## Message from Reeve



### County of Warner No. 5



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County of Warner No. 5  
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**H**ello Everyone. First, let me welcome our new Councillor, David Nilsson. David was acclaimed to Division 7 (Wrentham area) and is replacing retiring Councillor Morgan Rockenbach. I would like to sincerely thank Morgan for his service to the County and we wish him the very best. Also, congratulations to the rest of Council on their election and acclamations. With six returning Councillors the current Council has lots of knowledge which I trust they will use to continue to better the County and serve all its residents.



Looking back on the past year, I am proud of the County's continued efforts on advocacy and the focus on providing residents with services in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Advocacy efforts were made regarding the closure of Border Road by the US, sustainable access to water in the region, and healthcare. Council has communicated with provincial lawmakers through letters and meetings to keep these local issues front of mind. These efforts can be slow and frustrating, but we are committed to continuing to push our concerns



until they are addressed.

Several new pumpers arrived for Fire Departments throughout the County. This equipment is a major capital investment that the County plans for over many years to ensure departments have what they need to keep residents and properties safe when emergencies happen. I would like to thank our volunteers who man these pieces of equipment at any time of day when their neighbours need them the most.

County staff worked on road maintenance, noxious weed control, development and planning, protective services, parks operations, and agricultural education programs. I want to thank County staff for the great work they do for us. Overall, it has been a great year with lots of work getting done for you.

I also thank all residents for their continued support and participation in the growth and development of our community.

*Randy Taylor, Reeve*

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## COUNTY OF WARNER

### – Meet Your Council



**David Cody, Councillor**  
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**Jack Heggie, Councillor**  
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**David Nilsson, Councillor**  
Division: Division 7 Wrentham  
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COUNTY OF WARNER No. 5

## We are on Facebook

The County of Warner is on Facebook  
Follow us for important updates, events,  
and information.

## TAXES ARE DUE

The County of Warner would like to remind everyone that property taxes are due November 30, 2025 in order to avoid penalties. Acceptable payment methods include online banking through ATB, BMO, CIBC, Credit Union, Scotia Bank, and TD. Debit and cash are accepted during office hours at the Administration Office, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Credit card payment can be made through our website but will include an additional processing fee. Cheques can be made payable to the County of Warner No. 5, and dropped off at the office or mailed in. If the cheques are mailed the envelope should be postmarked by Canada Post no later than November 30, 2025 (a postage imprint is not an acceptable proof for date of mailing). There is a night deposit located just right of the main entrance doors to drop off cheques after-hours.

A 6% penalty fee is added on December 1 to any outstanding balances. An additional 8% penalty is added on January 1 to any outstanding balances.

We look forward to your yearly visit and if you have any questions, please contact the office at 403-642-3635.

## Community Benefit Fund

Stirling Wind Project and the County of Warner are pleased to Continue the Community Benefit Fund. This fund will allocate a maximum of \$9,783.00 annually to community projects, events, or other one-time capital improvements that will benefit residents of the County of Warner.

Funding will be allocated through an open application process. Eligible organizations or parties include registered charitable organizations, registered or incorporated not-for-profit organizations, schools, and other individuals or groups as deemed appropriate. Funded projects or events need to fall within one or more categories, including Environmental Enhancement, Social Welfare, Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness, Education & Science, or Emergency Relief.

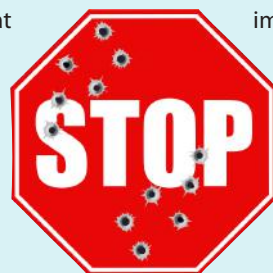
For applications, please visit the Warner County Webpage > Services > Community Benefit Fund and send to [admin@warnercounty.ca](mailto:admin@warnercounty.ca) by MARCH 1 11:59 p.m.

For any questions please contact the County Administration Office at 403-642-3635 or at [admin@warnercounty.ca](mailto:admin@warnercounty.ca).

## Public Works Update

**P**ublic Works continued to be hard at work throughout the spring and summer, maintaining roads, signage and gravel pits. The work we do ensures that our roadways remain in great condition, allowing producers and visitors to travel smoothly and safely. We would like to say thanks for watching out for us working on the road and continue to give us the needed space to work. This is greatly appreciated.

The 2025 construction season seen 3 miles of high-grade roads completed many culvert replacements for



improved drainage and road resurfacing with gravel. The sign replacement program continues to be an ongoing project as well with the majority of signage needing to be replaced because of them being used for target practice, to help reduce the costs of signage and installation of our operation find something else to practice on.

As winter approaches, we kindly ask for your patience and caution during snow removal and plowing operations. The County covers a vast area with an extensive road network, and it takes time to clear all roads effectively and fairly.



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Last Updated January 2014

## Downy brome

*Bromus tectorum* (Aka cheatgrass, cheatgrass brome, drooping brome, downy chess, early chess)

**Provincial Designation:**  
Noxious



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



### Overview:

Downy brome is an annual grass (Poaceae family), typically a winter annual, that reproduces by seed only. It behaves as a summer annual when early spring moisture or limiting fall moisture occurs. It is most active in the cool season and rapidly develops lateral and vertical fibrous root system to compete with perennial vegetation for moisture. Downy brome is native to the Mediterranean and southwestern Asia. It now occurs throughout most of Canada, the U.S., and northern Mexico. It was introduced to North America via ship ballast, contaminated crop seed, and packing materials (straw). It was even an ingredient of reclamation mixes at one time because of its ability to establish on dry, gravelly soils. Downy brome is very aggressive in dry grasslands, especially when accompanied by over grazing.

Plant size and morphology can vary greatly, depending on site conditions. Downy brome is capable of producing a second seed crop per season from additional tillers.<sup>1</sup> Seed production can vary from 25 to 5000 seeds per plant.<sup>2</sup>

Downy brome needs to germinate early or late season as hot, dry weather kills seedlings.<sup>1</sup> It is not a strong competitor with established perennials but established downy brome will out-compete perennial seedlings for moisture. It is commonly infected with a head smut fungus on cooler/moister aspects which can reduce stand density temporarily.<sup>1</sup>

Downy brome is strongly adapted to frequent fire regimes - it accumulates litter which dries completely by summer and is highly flammable.<sup>1</sup> Seeds can survive low-intensity burns, especially if already buried. It is a strong competitor post-fire. Fires in downy brome infestations can increase soil erosion.

It has altered the under storey plant communities of west coast Oak ecosystems it has invaded.

### Habitat:

Downy brome requires cool, semi-arid environments with precipitation peaks in late fall or early summer.<sup>2</sup> It inhabits coarse-textured, sandy or deep loamy soils with sunny, south/west facing slopes. It is tolerant of calcareous

and low-fertility soils but not acidic, nutrient poor soils.<sup>1</sup>

### Identification:

**Stems:** Are erect and can be slightly hairy and can range in height from 10 to 70 cm. There may be 1 to 20 tillers (stems) per plant. The entire plant turns from green to purple to brown/tan as it matures.<sup>2</sup>

**Leaves:** Are 4-16 cm long and 2-4 mm wide. Ligules are about 2 mm and membranous with entire or jagged edges. Auricles may be absent. Sheaths are closed to near the top and finely hairy.<sup>3</sup> Seedlings have bright green, hairy leaves.

**Flowers:** Downy brome has perfect flowers which are usually closed and self-pollinating, but is also capable of cross-pollination.<sup>1</sup> The inflorescence is a drooping, one-sided panicle with 5 to 8 florets.<sup>2</sup> Florets are 2-4 cm long including awns and are usually purple at maturity.<sup>2</sup>

### Prevention:

Most downy brome seeds fall near parent

plant, but can be spread as a contaminant of grain, hay, straw and soil, or seed caching by rodents. The awns of the seeds can also attach themselves to clothing, shoelaces, and animal fur. Check clothes and pets when leaving an infested area. Downy brome requires some disturbance to establish.

### Control:

Downy brome is very persistent once established. Effective control must eliminate live plants, prevent seed formation, and control seed germination & emerging seedlings.<sup>1</sup> A combination of control methods, repeated through the growing season, for successive years has the best chance of success. Seed longevity is only a few years and germination rates are usually high.

**Grazing:** Downy brome has become an important early, but very short season forage in the intermountain west and grazing can prevent seed production if plants are grazed early. But downy brome palatability decreases rapidly and heavy spring grazing can also suppress desirable, perennial forage, allowing downy brome to proliferate. So grazing can both suppress and favour downy brome.<sup>1</sup> Grazing should be done before the plants turn purple in color to prevent seed formation. Invasive plants should never be considered as forage.

**Cultivation:** Sowing and fertilizing of desirable species to compete with downy brome is effective, especially when used to support other control methods and to fill any voids left by eliminated downy brome patches. Fire, as noted above, is a control method that requires experience.

**Mechanical:** Mowing may prevent seed set but since plants may be at different life stages, the possibility to disperse seeds is great; also culms will re-grow and produce seed. Tillage can be effective when combined with other control methods and must be deep enough (10-15 cm) to bury seeds.<sup>1</sup> Hand pulling is effective for small infestations and must be repeated. Be sure to get as much of the root system as possible and dispose of debris in landfill.

**Chemical:** Glyphosate (alone or in a product mix with Dicamba or 2,4-D) and Pyroxulam are registered for use on downy brome. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Always read and follow label directions. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

**Biological:** Classical biological control of grasses such as *B. tectorum* poses problems regarding specificity, noting that many crops are also grasses. There has been considerable interest in using naturally occurring soil micro-organisms for weed control (Grey et al., 1995). Meyer et al. (2001) proposed the use of *U. bulbata* as a biological control agent for *B. tectorum*.<sup>4</sup>

### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> USFS Fire Effects Information System <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/brotec/introductory.html>  
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.agdepartment.com/NoxiousWeeds/pdf/Cheatgrass.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Hitchcock C.L. and Cronquist A. 1973. Flora of the Pacific Northwest.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cabi.org/isc/?compid=5&dsid=10036&loadmodule=datasheet&page=481&site=144>



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## THE GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

### *Grade Seven Students brighten the Shores of Ridge Reservoir*

September 25th 2025 - Grade Seven Students from both Raymond Junior High and Stirling School partnered with the Alberta Conservation Association and the County of Warner for a day spent cleaning up the shoreline at Ridge Reservoir. This age group from the two schools have been uniting for several years to brighten the shores by collecting garbage and debris that accumulate over the year. This year 130 students and parent/teacher volunteers braved the wind and cleaned up an estimated 200kg of trash.

Their efforts were followed by a field trip to the West End of the reservoir where they participated in touring the Wetland with the Alberta Conservation

Association and the Edible Forest with the County of Warner Ag Service Board. Students learned about the importance of wetlands and riparian areas in keeping the water safe for human, aquatic and animal use. They enjoyed a quick activity identifying fruit trees and shrubs before sampling some juicy treasures hiding beneath the leaves of a grape vine or raspberry bush.

This project shows how small actions can create a big impact – teaching students the value of stewardship, teamwork and caring for the environment.

Thank you, Grade Sevens, for helping protect a place that matters to our whole region!



## RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

### County Transfer Stations

The County runs three transfer stations which collect different types of waste depending on the facility. The County and the towns and villages in the County are all part of the Chief Mountain Region Solid Waste Services Commission, so you can drop off your waste at other local transfer stations according to the regulations and hours set by the controlling municipality. For more details you can visit the County website at [warnercounty.ca/p/waste-transfer-stations](http://warnercounty.ca/p/waste-transfer-stations).

#### New Dayton

SE 32-05-18 W4  
Saturday 9 am — 5 pm  
Every 1st Tuesday  
9 am — 5 pm

#### Masinasin

NW 27-2-13 W4  
24-hour access

#### Wrentham

NW 23-6-17 W4  
Friday 11 am — 7 pm

#### NEW — Household Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Special Products Collection at the New Dayton Transfer Station

Hazardous waste will have danger symbols like these on the container:



Before you put the items into the bin, make sure they are labelled and sealed properly. These items can pose a danger to you, our workers, and the environment.

#### NEW — Battery Recycling at New Dayton Transfer Station, Wrentham Library, and County Administration Office

Throwing batteries into domestic garbage bins can be dangerous as coming into contact with other waste can cause sparks or damage to the battery, leading to fires. Instead, store your batteries in a cool, dry place, tape terminals if required, and drop off to recycle!

Prevent fires at waste processing centres by responsibly recycling your batteries.

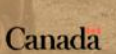
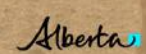


RECYCLE! BATTERIES CANADA!

## LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/DISASTER PLAN



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

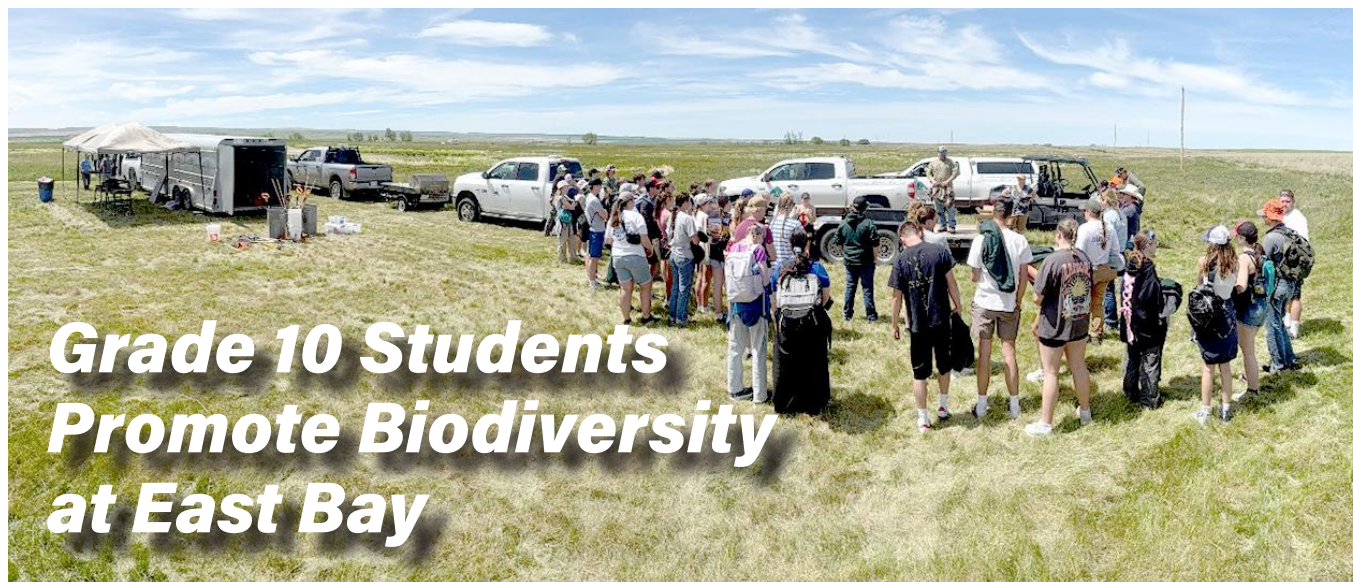


The County of Warner is collecting information for the construction of a Livestock Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Plan to bring awareness to County Officials and County Residents on how to effectively manage an emergency as pertaining to livestock.

This project aims to bring awareness of the roles and responsibilities of different parties within the region.

If you are a livestock producer please visit: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/dr4F3e2q3Z> and provide information to the best of your ability:





## Grade 10 Students Promote Biodiversity at East Bay

**M**ay 27th, 2025 - Grade 10 students from Raymond High School gathered with the Alberta Conservation Association and the County of Warner to plant trees and shrubs near Ridge Reservoir. The day was spent at the East Bay area where approximately 1000 caragana shrubs were planted by 45 students and 10 teachers/volunteers. Students learned techniques for planting trees and shrubs as well as the importance of plant diversity in maintaining healthy riparian areas, supporting biodiversity and improving habitat for wildlife.



## Tri Community Child Care UPDATE

**T**he Tri Community Child Care Society is a registered non-profit society formed by local mothers, grandmothers, and community members who recognize the urgent need for licensed childcare in our agricultural region of Warner, Milk River, Coutts and area. Currently, families face long commutes, irregular childcare or a complete lack of childcare options. This creates challenges for working parents, farm families, and local employers. Our mission is to provide a safe, reliable, and community-focused childcare facility to help families thrive and ensure the longevity of our rural communities.

The impact of a licensed daycare extends well beyond individual families. Access to childcare is proven to strengthen rural economies—Every \$1 invested in early childhood education returns up to \$6 in long-term economic benefits, including increased productivity and reduced social cost—also by keeping parents engaged in the workforce, supporting family farm operations, providing children with better educational outcomes, social development, and long-term success—regardless of their family background—and attracting new families to settle in small towns. By reducing barriers to employment, we are directly supporting local businesses, farm safety, schools, and community sustainability.

Our facility will create 18 licensed childcare spaces immediately upon opening—with room for expansion—and employ four full-time staff members, providing both a direct economic boost and essential support for young families. Our waitlist is currently 90% occupied.

To achieve this, we are working toward the renovation and opening of a licensed daycare facility in Warner. To date, we have received a small portion of the “Space Creation Grant” where the remainder of the \$108,000 will be available once we are operational. We have raised nearly \$50,000 through local

fundraising events, community grants, and donations. We also have our “Bids and Beef” Gala & Silent Auction this November—we hope to generate beyond \$20,000 at this event.

Here are some ways that you can get involved:

- Volunteer your time or services
- Pledge a donation to Tri Community Childcare Society

- Share this message with your network

Every contribution matters. With your support, we can open the doors to a brighter future for our children—and our communities

*Sincerely,*  
**Tri Community Child Care Society**

### Help Us Build Childcare for the Tri Community

The Tri Community Childcare Society is tackling a critical need: licensed childcare in Warner to serve families from New Dayton, Wrentham, Warner, Milk River, Coutts, and beyond.

#### What to Do

Simply tell your local auction house (Balog or Perlich) that you would like to donate the proceeds from a cull cow, ½ a cull, or 5 culls – you decide!! They will do the rest and you will have done a wonderful thing in supporting rural community.

#### Why It Matters

- 1 Our region is a childcare desert with almost no licensed spaces.
- 2 Families and businesses struggle, and 64% of farm women have said lack of childcare is a safety risk.
- 3 Without childcare, economic growth and the wellbeing in our communities are at risk.



#### What We're Building

A fully licensed daycare – safe, welcoming, and inspiring – with quality programs, outdoor play areas, and professional staff.

#### How You Can Help

Your support funds renovations, equipment, learning materials, and operating costs while also helping us unlock government grants. Sponsors and Family Legacy Donations will be recognized through community features, social media, and permanent recognition in the facility. Please talk to us if you would like to dedicate the facility to your family legacy. Join us in creating a brighter future for our children and community.

**DONATE, SPONSOR, OR VOLUNTEER TODAY.**



#### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Follow us on Facebook  
Email us @ [tricomcommunitychildcare@gmail.com](mailto:tricomcommunitychildcare@gmail.com)  
Call us @ 403 642 7385  
Thank You!





## Feed Testing Importance

Understanding the quality of the feed being fed on a beef cattle operation is paramount to maintaining animal health and welfare. Visual assessment of feedstuffs is not an accurate means to assess quality and may lead to cows being underfed and losing body condition or result in overspending on expensive supplements that aren't necessary. It is recommended that producers test feeds prior to feeding to ensure that the cattle nutritional requirements will be met.

### Key Points

Feed testing can assist producers in identifying potential issues that could result from nutrient imbalances.

It's critical to collect a feed sample that is representative of the feed ingredient(s) that you are testing.

Samples should be taken as close to feeding or selling as possible, while leaving enough time for the results to come back from the lab.

Laboratory results are typically reported on both a "Dry Matter" and an "As-Fed" basis. Dry Matter (DM) refers to the moisture-free nutritional content of the sample. Always formulate rations on a DM basis.

Most labs provide basic information on moisture content, protein, energy, total digestible nutrients, fibre, and some vitamins and minerals. More specialized tests may include results for pH, acid detergent insoluble nitrogen (ADIN), nitrates, toxins, relative feed value (RFV), and other parameters.

Trace minerals, particularly copper, zinc, and manganese, are important for the reproduction, health, and growth of an animal, and almost always require supplementation.

In most cases, it is recommended that minerals be supplemented year-round.

Testing stock water quality is particularly important during a drought, when minerals



and nutrients may become concentrated as water tables drop in surface or ground water, or evaporation occurs in stock ponds.

Once feed test results are available, producers can formulate an appropriate ration for their cattle using the services of a qualified nutritionist, the assistance of agriculture extension staff, or through a software program such as CowBytes.

### Why Should I feed Test?

- Avoid sneaky production problems, such as poor gains or reduced conception caused by mineral or nutrient deficiencies or excesses;
  - Prevent or identify potentially devastating problems due to toxicity from mycotoxins, nitrates, sulfates, or other minerals or nutrients;
  - Develop appropriate rations that meet the nutritional needs of their beef cattle;
  - Identify nutritional gaps that may require supplementation;
  - Economize feeding, and possibly make use of opportunities to include diverse ingredients;
  - Accurately price feed for buying or selling.
- Feed testing is an important tool when tackling feed management.

<https://www.beefresearch.ca/>

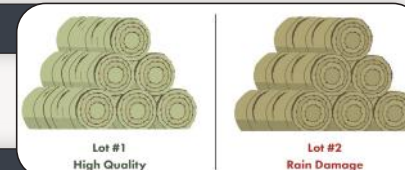
## FORAGE SAMPLING BEST PRACTICES



A feed test result is only as good as the sample provided. Follow proper sampling techniques to ensure an accurate test result.

### Group Forage To Be Sampled Into Lots

Group and collect forage samples in lots, which could be based on forage maturity, variety, harvest date, a single field or a single cutting.

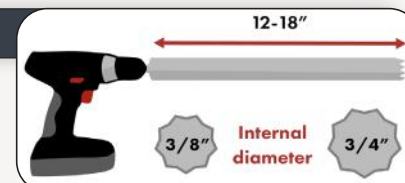


### Sample at the Right Time

Collect samples **when management decisions are being made** or as close to feed-out as possible. For ensiled forages, collect samples during harvest or wait a **minimum of four weeks after ensiling** before sampling.

### Use the Right Tools

- Forage probe
- Clean container for collecting samples
- Plastic sample bags
- Clippers (for standing or swathed forage)



Work with your nutritionist or local extension office to obtain a forage sample probe.

### Sample at Random

Collect samples **at random** for each forage lot. DO NOT avoid bales that appear below average or areas in a field with poor forage cover.

### Allow Time for Sample Turnaround

Allow a minimum **two-week turnaround** time from when you collect samples and receive lab results.

### Label Samples Properly

**Clearly label samples** with farm name, forage type, date collected, plus lot number or description. Contact your laboratory for further labelling instructions.



A list of Canadian feed testing labs is available at: [BeefResearch.ca/labs](https://www.beefresearch.ca/labs).

Scan for list

### Use the Test Results

Work with your nutritionist or input feed analysis results into ration-balancing software to **formulate balanced feed rations** for your herd.



CowBytes ration-balancing software is available for purchase at [CowBytes.ca](https://www.cowbytes.ca).

CowBytes.ca

Version: 01.2024

## Water Is Important!

Understanding the Connection Between Water and Beef Cattle Production



### Water is an essential nutrient.

High quality water is critical for cattle health, growth, lactation and reproduction.



### Water quality matters.

Monitor water sources routinely as quality can change quickly due to weather, runoff, evaporation and land use.



### Water stewardship.

Use water resources efficiently and minimize the impact of cattle on the health of water sources.



[BEEFRESEARCH.CA/WATER](https://www.beefresearch.ca/water)

## Advanced Grazing Systems for Producers



### ATTENTION ALL CATTLE PRODUCERS & GRAZING MENTORS!

The Canadian Forage Grassland Association invites you to enhance your expertise with our free online course, Advanced Grazing Systems.

*This system uses rotational grazing practices adapted to the landscape with considerations for:*

- ✓ Rest Period
- ✓ Animal Impact
- ✓ Soil Health
- ✓ Graze Time
- ✓ Stock Density
- ✓ Biodiversity

**Don't miss out—register now and elevate your grazing system!**

Scan me







## CCC & CCGA release

Today, China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) announced that it has extended its anti-dumping investigation into canola seed imports from Canada until March 9, 2026. The anti-dumping investigation was initiated on September 9, 2024, and was due to be completed within a year, with the possibility of an extension of up to six months.

The Canola Council of Canada (CCC) and Canadian Canola

## Canola industry statement on China's extension of anti-dumping investigation into Canadian canola seed imports

Growers Association (CCGA) are hopeful this extension signals a willingness by the Canadian and Chinese governments to work towards a timely resolution to the tariff issues having widespread impact on the Canadian canola value chain.

With farmers currently in the field harvesting this year's crop, the need for action by government is urgent.

Since the beginning of China's anti-dumping investigation, the Canadian canola industry has been consistent in its position that Canada's canola trade with China is aligned with and supports rules-based trade, fair market access, and competitiveness of Canadian canola in the Chinese market.

■ Continued on Page 8



## Help keep markets open for all

Keep it Clean provides timely updates on potential market risks and resources for on-farm practices to help ensure crops meet the standards of domestic and export customers.

### What are market-ready crops?

Crops that meet the requirements of our domestic and export customers.

### Why Keep it Clean?

Most of what we grow is exported, so the success of our industry depends on maintaining open access to key international markets.

### Canada exports:



Over  
**90%**  
of canola



Over  
**80%**  
of wheat



Over  
**85%**  
of pulses

### How can I Keep it Clean?

Your on-farm practices **make a difference**. Keep it Clean and avoid unacceptable residue levels in your grain. Only use appropriate crop protection products and make sure to always follow the label.

Follow the 5 Tips at [KeepItClean.ca](https://www.KeepItClean.ca) to reduce the risk of rejected shipments due to residues that exceed maximum residue limits (MRLs) and help maintain Canada's reputation as a quality supplier.

Our agricultural exports must meet the standards set by importing countries, including their tolerances for pesticide residues and traces of disease, which differ between markets. Importing countries are increasingly testing shipments using highly sensitive equipment to ensure they comply with set maximum residue limits (MRLs). New technology can detect levels close to one part per billion, and in some cases, parts per trillion.



Our part per billion = nine canola seeds in a super B truck

## Tips, tools and resources to keep your crops market ready.



Scan the QR code or visit [KeepItClean.ca/tools](https://www.KeepItClean.ca/tools) to learn more.

### 1 Use acceptable pesticides only

Only apply pesticides that are registered for use on your crop in Canada, won't create trade concerns, and are acceptable to both domestic and export customers.

#### Tools and Resources:

- Product Advisory: Outlines market risks from crop and product combinations
- Product advisory webinar

### 2 Always read and follow the label

Always follow the label for application rate, timing and pre-harvest interval (PHI). Applying pesticides incorrectly is illegal and may result in unacceptable residues in harvested grain.

#### Tools and Resources:

- Pre-harvest interval calculator
- Pre-harvest glyphosate staging guide
- Pre-harvest tips and tools webinar

### 3 Manage disease pressures

An integrated disease management plan is important to maintain the yield and quality of your crops. It also helps ensure Canada's canola, cereals and pulses meet the phytosanitary requirements of our export markets.

#### Tools and Resources:

- Blackleg management in canola
- Fusarium management in cereals

### 4 Store your crops properly

Proper storage helps maintain crop quality and keeps the bulk free of harmful contaminants that may create market risk.

#### Tools and Resources:

- Safe storage practices
- Tips on preventing Ochratoxin A in cereals

### 5 Deliver what you declare

The Declaration of Eligibility affidavit is a legal assertion that your crop is the variety and/or class that you have designated. The declaration also specifies that your crop was not treated with certain crop protection products to ensure it meets the requirements of our export markets.

#### Tools and Resources:

- Listing of de-registered canola varieties

Sign up for our newsletter at [KeepItClean.ca](https://www.KeepItClean.ca) to get timely updates and helpful resources sent straight to your inbox.





## CCGA represents canola farmers

■ Continued from Page 7

China is a highly valued market, and the Canadian canola industry has and will continue to work hard to meet Chinese customers' and food security needs.

Both CCC and CCGA are continuing all efforts to work towards a resolution of this issue for Canadian canola farmers and the broader value chain.

The Canola Council of Canada is a full value chain organization representing canola growers, processors, life science companies and

exporters. The CCC's mission is to facilitate market access and strategic development and enable industry innovation to grow the value and profitability of Canadian canola. For more information, visit, [canolacouncil.org](http://canolacouncil.org).

Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) represents canola farmers on national and international issues, policies, and programs that impact farm profitability and has been an administrator of the Government of Canada's Advance Payments Program since 1984. For more information, follow CCGA on X [@ccga\\_ca](https://twitter.com/ccga_ca) and LinkedIn.

### Management Tips for Reducing the Risk of Mycotoxins



When storing ensiled products, **ensure proper packing and covering** to keep oxygen levels in check.



When storing grains, byproducts and dry forages, **cover and/or store appropriately** to manage moisture levels.



For grains harvested at a high moisture level, **drying should take place as soon as possible after harvest.**



**Test all suspect feeds** for mycotoxin identification.



**Never give mouldy feed** to pregnant, lactating or young animals.



**Purchase cereal byproduct feeds from reputable sources.** This type of feed is at a higher risk of contamination.



**Rotate crops** to keep host plants out of the rotation for **at least three years** for infected fields.



If mycotoxins are present, **work with a nutritionist and follow recommended guidelines** to make sure rations are balanced safely.

[BEEFRESEARCH.CA/MYCOTOXINS](http://BEEFRESEARCH.CA/MYCOTOXINS)

## Practice Safe Storage Prevent OTA



Moisture and temperature are the two biggest factors in grain spoilage. Making sure the grain that goes into the bin has been dried to an optimum moisture level and checking the bins frequently to monitor temperature and identify any issues early will reduce the chances of spoilage.

When it comes time to store cereals, one of the best things a grower can do for their grain is to ensure that it's dry and kept cool – well below 10°C.

Ochratoxin A (OTA), is a potent, naturally occurring mycotoxin that can form on stored cereal grains in high moisture conditions. OTA is produced by *Penicillium verrucosum* a naturally occurring soil fungus; but, unlike deoxynivalenol (also known as DON or vomitoxin) which is formed by fusarium infections in the field, OTA forms exclusively in storage.

OTA can be a risk to market access as countries can have different maximum allowable limits of OTA in grain. Make sure to monitor this regularly throughout the storage season, and to remove a minimum of one-third of bins if there's a detectable temperature rise. Not doing so risks the development of OTA.

Preventing even the smallest pockets of OTA-contaminated cereals during storage is the only way to manage OTA and help reduce the risk of toxins being produced and avoiding product recall. OTA is not destroyed with heat or processing, so it can persist in grain/grain products. By taking steps to prevent the formation of OTA in stored grain, farmers

can protect their investments and help keep markets open for all.

The most common cause of OTA is from contaminated soil particles, last year's stored grain, grain handling equipment, and/or residues remaining in the bin. OTA can develop in small pockets of wet grain, or when water comes in contact with grain – even in bins that are generally well managed and properly aerated.

Cooling the grain as quickly as possible and keeping it cool can help reduce the production of condensation in storage.

No matter the crop that's in the bin, Keep it Clean recommends checking them frequently and following these best management practices for safe storage:

- Keep bins and grain handling equipment clean.
- Thoroughly clean dust and debris between grain lots.
- Ensure crops are harvested or dried to a safe level for storage.
- Do not blend tough/damp grain with dry grain on-farm – it's too risky.
- Cool the grain quickly to well below 10°C to achieve uniform, cold temperatures throughout the bulk, ideally well below zero.
- Monitor bins regularly. Move at least one-third of the grain out of the bin with any detectable temperature rise.
- Condition grain as soon as possible in the spring, as soon as ambient temperatures allow for drying.

### Proper storage helps to maintain crop quality and keeps the bulk free of harmful cross-contaminants that may create market risk

- Make sure your storage bins are free of treated seed and animal protein like blood meal and bone meal.
- Clean bins thoroughly prior to storing your crop.
- Only use approved bin treatments (e.g. diatomaceous earth on cereals).
- Never use malathion to prepare canola for storage or to treat bins used to store canola. Its residue can linger for months, so do not store canola in a bin treated with **malathion** in the current growing season.

- Condition crops to moisture and temperature levels safe for long-term storage.
- Keep bins cool, dry, well-ventilated and check their condition regularly.
- Prevent the presence of other crop types, such as soy, mustard and buckwheat, as several customers have strict limits on these known **allergens**.

Read **Practice Safe Storage to Prevent OTA in Cereals** to learn more about how to reduce mycotoxin formation in stored grain.



## Are you planning to Apply for Agriculture or Farm Related Grants in 2026?

**Start Planning ahead for your 2026 Grant Applications for programs such as OFCAF and On-Farm Efficiency.**

**Reach out to RaeAnn Hollingsworth, CCA, for one-on-one support and assistance with your grant application and Best Management Plans.**

**[rhollingsworth@warnercounty.ca](mailto:rhollingsworth@warnercounty.ca)**



County of Warner and Lethbridge County Partnered to bring an Environmental Farm Plan Workshop to Southern Alberta. The two municipalities spent the day with producers from each region on how to successfully complete their own EFPs and reviewing the opportunities that go along with having a valid EFP. Completing an EFP allows for greater awareness, education, and access to market opportunities for producers across the province. Once an EFP is completed, it is valid for 10 years and provides you with an action plan that you can implement as time and resources allow. For questions about Environmental Farm Plans reach out to RaeAnn Hollingsworth or James Wills at the Agriculture Service Board

**Ph: 403.642.2255**

**[E: rhollingsworth@warnercounty.ca](mailto:rhollingsworth@warnercounty.ca); [jwills@warnercounty.ca](mailto:jwills@warnercounty.ca)**

## OFCAF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

RDAR - OFCAF provides financial support to producers to accelerate their adoption and implementation of on-farm Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to lower Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, support production efficiency, sustainability and resiliency on their farm operations. Applications are open. Visit: <https://rdar.ca>



CFGA - OFCAF The CFGA is helping to distribute funds for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund in the rotational grazing stream in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Saskatchewan. They will begin accepting rotational grazing implementation projects for the 2026 program year starting Feb. 1, 2026. To keep updated on program details and promotion, register on the CFGA's Impact portal to be included on our email list. Visit: <https://www.canadianfga.ca/en/pasture-grazing/farm-climate-action-fund/> or <https://impactbmp.com>



## YOUR PLAN, YOUR FARM, YOUR FUTURE.

**Register today to start your EFP workbook at [albertaefp.com](http://albertaefp.com)**

### YOUR EFP IS...

- ✓ Confidential
- ✓ Free with an easy renewal process
- ✓ Supported one-on-one by a trained EFP technician
- ✓ Valid for 10 years with an easy renewal process



### BENEFITS OF AN EFP



Demonstrate environmental stewardship



Understand and reduce potential environmental risks



Can reduce costs, increase efficiency, access funding



Use as a future planning tool

## Thinking about Grants for 2026?

It is encouraged to start working on an application prior to application date opening as there are a large volume of submissions early in the application window.

The **On-Farm Efficiency Program** is set to reopen in April 2026

Eligible expenses are cost shared at 50%. The maximum funding per applicant is \$150,000..

The program has 4 Streams. The maximum funding per Stream over the duration of the program is:

- \$50,000 for Smart Farm Technology
- \$50,000 for Energy Efficiency
- \$2,000 for Farm Security
- \$100,000 for Efficient Grain Handling

For More information: <https://www.alberta.ca/on-farm-efficiency-program>

OFEF team

Connect directly with the OFEF team:

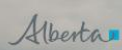
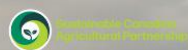
Email: [ofef@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ofef@gov.ab.ca)

General inquiries or to be redirected to OFEF team

Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Toll free: **310-FARM** (3276) (in Alberta)

Phone: **403-742-7901** (outside Alberta)



## Environmental Farm Plan

An applicant must have a current EFP certificate or letter of completion or must be able to receive an EFP certificate or letter of completion to submit with their final report. To be valid, your EFP must have been completed within the 10 years prior to the date your proposal is received.

To get started on your EFP, visit: <https://webbook.albertaefp.com/register/>



## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

### Find us at

1-587-200-2552 | [info@albertaefp.com](mailto:info@albertaefp.com)  
[www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com)

### We offer one-on-one assistance!

Reach out for help with your EFP



**Scan the code to join our events**



# Caring for trees after hail and windstorms damages

By Toso Bozic

Summer often brings intense and violent storms accompanied by heavy rain, strong winds, and hail. Both large and small hailstones can cause devastating damage to trees and shrubs. Fine foliage may be stripped away, twigs snapped, tender tissues torn, and—when combined with powerful winds—even large branches may break, or entire trees may topple. In many cases, strong winds and hail also strip bark, damage small and large limbs, and can leave trees completely defoliated.

On evergreens, hail can shred needles, while wind often causes stem breakage. Recovery may be slower due to limited leaf replacement each year. On deciduous trees many broadleaf species can re-leaf after hail damage, but repeated defoliation weakens tree reserves. Young and fruit trees are mostly effected due to hail bruising, which create many wounds on stems and all branches. **Hail wounds increase a tree's vulnerability to decay-causing fungi and insect infestations.**

Hail damage is especially harmful because it removes leaves, the essential structures that allow trees and shrubs to produce energy. Damage typically appears on the upper side of branches and on the side of the trunk facing the storm, leaving visible scars. Recovery time depends heavily on the overall health and resilience of the tree.

Despite the severity of damage, many healthy trees and shrubs can recover from hailstorms. The most important part of the tree that often remains unharmed is the root system. Roots serve as the “engine” of the tree, storing much of its energy reserves and supporting recovery of



damaged branches and foliage.

A healthy tree that loses less than 20% of its foliage in a hailstorm often responds as though it has undergone light pruning and typically recovers with minimal long-term effects. If 50% or more of the foliage is lost, recovery becomes more challenging. While most healthy trees will survive, interior limbs that were previously shaded may suddenly be exposed to full sunlight, which can cause additional stress. In cases where more than 50% of branches are lost, survival depends on species, age, health, and follow-up care.

In rare but severe cases, hail can strip nearly all foliage from a tree. A natural reaction might be to remove the tree altogether. However, removal is not always the best solution unless the tree was already in poor health or had significant preexisting issues. Many trees retain dormant buds that can produce new leaves within weeks, allowing for surprising recovery.

## Management

If trees and shrubs are severely damaged,

several recovery practices can help improve their chances of survival:

- **Safety First:** Inspect trees carefully for contact with power lines. If any are involved, stay away and contact the utility company immediately.
- **Call an Arborist:** If there are large broken branches or heavy hanging limbs, seek help from a certified arborist. Large branches can fall suddenly in wind or cold, creating serious injury risks.
- **Hazard Assessment:** After the storm, you may perform a tree hazard assessment to identify ongoing trees risks to people, property and utilities.
- **Pruning:** Remove broken, hanging, or severely damaged branches using proper pruning techniques.
- **Watering:** Provide consistent, deep watering during dry periods to reduce stress. The main reason for watering in fall prior to winter is that water acts as an insulator to the soil and most importantly to the roots of trees. Cold air around the root system will greatly damage/kill roots

*Pictures: Heavy hail on the ground (left) 30% leaves damages on elm tree (centre), leave and needle damage after hailstorm (right). Photo credits: Stephen Bevans- Cardstone county (centre) and Newell county ( right )*

causing branch dieback or eventually kill the tree. Having frozen water in the soil makes soils warmer than surrounding cold air. Roots without water around them will be more susceptible to cold dry air damages.

- **Mulching:** Apply a 5–10 cm (2–4 inch) layer of organic mulch, such as wood chips, around the base of the tree. Mulch helps regulate soil temperature, conserve moisture, and promote root recovery. Keep mulch several centimeters away from the trunk to prevent rot.

- **Fertilizing:** Avoid fertilizing immediately after a storm, as stressed trees should not be forced into new growth. Instead, wait until the following growing season and apply a balanced, slow-release fertilizer. Do not fertilize trees after July 1. Fertilization late in the growing season may stimulate new growth at a time when trees should be preparing for dormancy. By late August and early September, trees begin shutting down for winter.

Late-season growth increases the risk of frost damage and long-term decline.

Hail and windstorms are harsh on trees and shrubs, but most healthy trees and shrubs have the ability to recover with time, care, and patience. Protecting the roots by mulching, proper pruning of damaged branches, watering in fall is crucial for tree survival in winter. Avoiding late-season fertilization but apply appropriate amount of fertilizer for next spring growing season.

## ELM TREE PRUNING BAN IS LIFTED October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

*Follow the appropriate management steps when pruning your Elm Trees*

### Best practices

‘Elm tree’ means any tree or part of a tree of the Ulmus genus and its cultivars, including the American, Siberian and Japanese elm. Follow these best practices to help keep elm trees healthy and less susceptible to DED:

- Keep your elm trees healthy, vigorous and properly pruned.
- Water elms from April to mid-August. To allow the tree to harden off for the winter, stop watering in mid-August, followed by a good soaking or 2 before freeze-up.

### Enforceable steps

The following prevention and control measures are enforceable under the APA and must be followed:

#### 1. Elm pruning ban

Pruning ban April 1 to September 30 each year.

#### 2. Elm preventative pruning

Pruning permitted between October 1 to March 31 the following year

#### 3. DED confirmation

The presence of the DED must be confirmed by a laboratory test. If a tree is removed before diagnostic testing is complete, the tree must be treated as if it is infested with DED and disposed of according to the guidelines.

#### 4. Elm tree removal

When an elm tree has tested positive for DED, the tree must be removed immediately and properly disposed of. The stump must also be properly treated.

#### 5a. Elm tree disposal

Elm wood cannot be stored, or transported unless en route to the closest elm wood disposal site. All elm wood must be properly disposed of immediately by either burning or burying to a minimum depth of 25 cm. If elm wood is uninfected with DED, another option is chipping.

#### 5b. Elm wood storage

Storage of elm wood is prohibited at any time of year unless the wood has been treated as described below:

- all bark has been removed from the wood
- the wood has been treated by kiln drying it to a moisture content of 18% or less, or heating it to 56°C for at least 30 minutes

#### 6. Elm chipping

Elm wood not infected with DED can be chipped into pieces not more than 5 cm. Larger elm wood chips can harbor the vector. Fresh chips will give off a scent that will attract the vectors therefore chips may be destroyed or stock piled for at least

one year before using them in a landscape setting.

#### 7. Elm stump treatment

All elm stumps must be properly destroyed. Remove the stump to a minimum depth of 10 cm below the soil line and fill the hole with soil or treat the elm tree stump in a manner satisfactory to an inspector.

#### 8. High-risk tree

A high-risk tree is defined as a stressed tree that has deteriorated to the point of making it capable of supporting elm bark beetle habitation and breeding. There are many reasons why a tree may become a high risk. If an inspector has declared an elm tree to be a high risk, the tree must be removed and properly disposed of.

#### 9. Hazard tree

Hazard is defined as a branch or a whole tree that is in imminent danger of failing and causing damage or harm to property or people. In the event an elm branch is damaged making it a hazard during the elm pruning ban, corrective pruning can only be done to the hazard branch with inspector approval. A hazard tree can be removed at any time of the year without inspector approval. All elm material must be properly disposed of.



## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SHOVEL-READY PROJECTS!

FINAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY!  
GOT FISH HABITAT?

CONTACT US WITH YOUR IDEAS FOR A 'LITTLE FISH BIG STEWARDSHIP' PROJECT.

MARNEL MULLER  
MMULLER@COWSANDFISH.ORG

TIM ROMANOW  
TIM@MRWCC.CA

TYLER ERESMAN  
TYLER@MRWCC.CA

PROJECTS MUST BE IMPLEMENTED THIS FALL OR WINTER TO BE ELIGIBLE.

PROJECTS COULD INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- OFF-SITE WATERING SYSTEMS
- RIVER SCREEN INSTALLATION
- RIPARIAN FENCING



## Help keep Alberta Dutch Elm Disease free. Prevention starts at home.

The elm bark beetle, which transports the DED fungus, is attracted to fresh wounds on elm trees. The Alberta elm pruning ban prohibits pruning when the beetles are most active.

### DON'T PRUNE ELM TREES FROM APRIL 1 TO SEPT 30

For proper pruning, hire a professional arborist.

- Do not store elm wood
- Prune between Oct 1 and Mar 31
- Dispose of all elm wood at a landfill, or bury or burn immediately
- Keep elm trees healthy by watering well



www.stopded.org  
1-877-837-ELMS (3567)



Government of Alberta



## HAND SIGNALS ON THE FARM LEARN THEM - USE THEM

**Working around machinery** is often noisy. Communication between workers is essential to avoid confusion and reduce the possibility of an accident. The use of hand signals to communicate, instead of talking, lets co-workers exchange instructions from a safe distance.



(may mean "Come help me" in an emergency):  
Raise arm vertically overhead, palm to the front, and rotate in large horizontal circles.



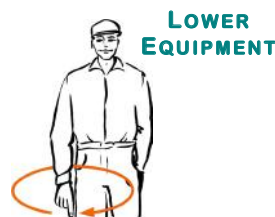
Raise hand upward, arm fully extended, palm to the front. Hold that position until the signal is understood.



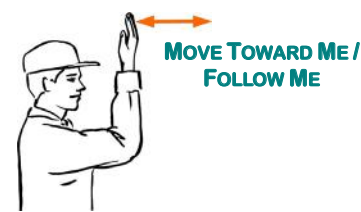
Face desired direction of movement. Extend arm straight out behind you, then swing it overhead and forward until it's straight out in front of you with palm down.



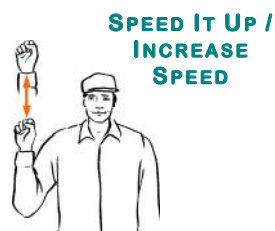
Point upward with forefinger, making a circle at head level with your hand.



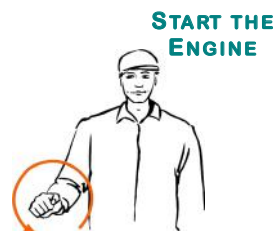
Point toward the ground with forefinger while moving the hand in circular motion.



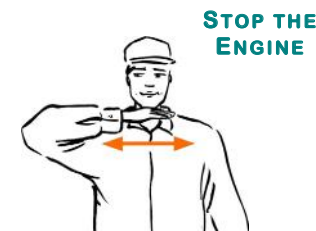
Look toward person or vehicle you want moved. Hold one hand in front of you, palm facing you, and move your forearm back and forth.



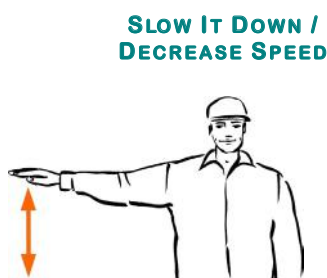
Raise hand to shoulder, fist closed. Thrust fist upward to full extent of arm and back to shoulder rapidly several times



Move arm in a circle at waist level, as though you were cranking an engine.



Move your right arm across your neck from left to right in a "throat-cutting" motion.



Extend arm horizontally sideward, palm down, and wave arm downward 45° minimum several times, keeping arm straight. Don't move arm above horizontal.



Put hands in front of face, palms facing each other. Move hands together or further apart to indicate how far to go.



Left arm extended horizontally.



Left hand and arm extended upward at the elbow.

These are industry standard hand signals. Uniformity is the key point - everyone must get the same message from the same signal. Learn them, use them - and help prevent farm injuries and fatalities. Please display this poster prominently in your farm machinery work area.



## QUICK FACTS WILD BOAR AT LARGE

Feral pigs, also known as wild boar at large, are one of the most damaging invasive species in North America. They cause damage to cropland, properties, and ecosystems. They can predate on livestock and have the potential to transfer disease to pigs, cattle, wildlife, and humans. Hunting is not an effective control option.

### Squeal on pigs!

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of wild boar at large:

1. Squeal! If you see wild boar at large or signs of their activity, report it to 310-FARM, [wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:wildboar@gov.ab.ca), your local municipality, or use the free EDDMapS smartphone app. If your crop has been damaged by wild boar, producers can be compensated through the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation's Wildlife

Damage Compensation Program.

2. DO NOT hunt wild boar at large! This is NOT an effective control option. Although hunting may seem helpful, it has the opposite effect and allows populations to expand and exacerbate impacts. These animals are smart and quickly learn avoidance techniques, such as becoming nocturnal, that they pass on to their young.

3. Know the law! Wild boar are listed as an agricultural pest under the Agricultural Pests Act when at large. Existing wild boar farms must comply with the Wild Boar Containment Standards, which provide enhanced fencing requirements to prevent escape.

### Wild boar at large quick facts:

- Wild boar are native to Europe and Asia and were introduced to Canada as livestock. Some have escaped and established wild populations.
- Wild boar at large weigh between 45-150 kg and have coarse gray to brown hair, sometimes with a tufted ridge along their backs. Tails are straight with a bushy tip. They have thick necks and large canine teeth or tusks visible when their mouth is closed.

They are able to reproduce at young ages (between 5-12 months old) and can have 6 piglets at a time, sometimes twice a year.

• Common signs of wild boar at large include: trampled or destroyed crops, boar droppings, hair on barbed wire, digging (rooting) or rolling around (wallowing), and tracks and trails from groups (sounders). Boar tracks are rounder than deer tracks.

• Wild boar at large can host 39 different diseases that can be transmitted to livestock, wildlife, and humans. For example, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease would shut down all Alberta pork and beef exports and cost \$65 billion nationwide.

• Wild boar at large can devastate crops, alter ecosystems, and predate on livestock and wildlife. The cost of damage in the US is estimated at over \$1.5 billion annually.

• Control of wild boar at large can be difficult. The most effective method is to eliminate the entire sounder simultaneously using trained personnel. Hunting is NOT recommended and can intensify the issue as these animals quickly learn to disperse, change movement patterns, become nocturnal, and pass these tricks onto their young.

• Wild boar at large are established in several areas in Alberta.

## WILD BOAR AT LARGE *Sus scrofa*



with **confirmed**  
sightings of wild boar



Wild boar are native to Europe and Asia, in North America, they are considered a pest.

### SIGNS OF WILD BOAR

- digging/rooting
- wallowing/rolling
- hair on barbed wire
- trampled crops
- tracks and trails



reproduce multiple  
times a year, between  
**5-12 months old**, with  
litters of **6 piglets**



Wild boar at large can host 39  
different diseases that can be  
transmitted to livestock, wildlife  
and humans.

**\$65,000,000,000**

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease would shut down all Alberta pork and beef exports and is estimated to cost \$65 billion dollars.

Hunting is  
**NOT** an  
effective  
control  
option

Report signs or sightings to:

- [wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:wildboar@gov.ab.ca)
- 310-FARM
- your local municipality
- EDDMapS app



## NORWAY RATS *Rattus norvegicus*

Alberta is  
“**RAT-FREE**”  
for over



Pet rats are  
**NOT** allowed  
in Alberta



Rats are native to Asia, in North America, they are considered a pest.

### SIGNS OF RATS

- droppings
- gnaw or chew marks
- burrows or nests
- rub marks on walls
- strange noises



reproduce multiple  
times a year, at **8**  
**weeks old**, with up to  
12 litters per year of  
**12-18 rats**



Rats can host **more than 35**  
different diseases that can be  
transmitted to humans.

**\$19,000,000,000**

Rat damages (food contamination, structural, public health risks and agricultural losses) are estimated to cost \$19 billion annually in the US.

Report signs or sightings to:

- [rats@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rats@gov.ab.ca)
- 310-FARM
- your local municipality
- EDDMapS app





## QUICK FACTS RATS



Roof rat, *Rattus rattus*

**Rats are one of the most destructive invasive species in North America. They cause damage to agriculture, properties, ecosystems, and have the potential to transfer disease to humans.**

### RAT ON RATS!

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of rats:

- 1. Rat!** If you see rats or signs of their activity, take a photo if you can and report it to [rats@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rats@gov.ab.ca), 310-FARM, your local municipality, or use the free EDDMapS app.
- 2. Know the law!** In Alberta, all rats of the genus *Rattus* are listed as an agricultural pest under the Agricultural Pests Act. This means land owners and local government shall work to prevent infestations, and control or destroy invasive rats in the province. The Alberta Rat Control Program has prevented the establishment of rats for over 70 years.
- 3. Recognize a rat!** Many rodents are often misidentified for rats. Norway rats and roof rats (reportable species) are larger in size than the mouse, vole, pocket gopher, bushy-tailed wood rats, Richardson ground squirrel, however, smaller than a muskrat.

### RAT QUICK FACTS:

- Rats are native to Asia and were introduced to Canada through cargo ships. Most often, they will hitch a ride through various forms of transport (boats, trailers, transport trucks, cars, etc.).
- Norway rats have coarse gray to brown hair. Tails are distinctly leathery, nearly hairless, cylindrical, and shorter than their thick bodies (up to 10 inches). Their small faces have blunt snouts, large teeth and small ears.
- Roof rats have smooth black to brown hair. Tails are scaly, cylindrical, and noticeably longer than their slim bodies (5-7 inches). Their faces have pointed noses, large eyes and ears.
- Rats can reproduce every 21-23 days and have litters with up to 12 young at a time. In one year, a female can have up to 15,000 offspring.
- Common signs of rats include: droppings, gnaw or chew marks, burrows or nests, rub marks along walls, and strange noises from scurrying in walls, especially active during dusk or night.
- Rats can host over 35 different diseases that can be transmitted to humans. From the bubonic plague to typhus and hantavirus, diseases can be transmitted directly from exposure to rat-infected feces, urine or bites and indirectly through vectors such as fleas, ticks or mites.
- Rats can impact agriculture by contaminating crops and damage infrastructure through gnawing, which can cause electrical fires. The cost of damage in the US is estimated at over \$19 billion annually.
- Control of rats can be difficult. The most effective method is to eliminate the entire group simultaneously using trained personnel and then rat-proof the area to prevent further infestations.
- Rats are not established in Alberta. The province remains the largest rat-free jurisdiction in the world.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [ABINVASIVES.CA](http://ABINVASIVES.CA)



## BEING PROACTIVE to Keep Your Rural Business Safe

When you are operating a business in a rural area, security should be a main focus of your operation. Because of the large areas that rural law enforcement detachments cover, response times often take over 30 minutes. With help at least half an hour away, businesses need to be proactive and strategic about their security measures. We are sharing practical ways to keep your commercial or industrial property and inventory safe from criminals.

### Understanding the Rural Security Challenge

Every business has its own unique security concerns, but those based in rural communities often share similar vulnerabilities.

There are fewer people around, or sometimes no one at all, to act as witnesses and deterrents to criminals. Neighbouring businesses may be spread too far apart to keep an eye out for each other. As we mentioned before, another concern for rural businesses is that RCMP and other law enforcement organizations are spread thinner in rural areas, so their response times to reports of crime are longer.

### Building a Business Community Security Network

One of the most powerful security tools available to rural business owners costs nothing but time and communication; it's collaborating with neighbouring businesses. If you have businesses that are close enough to look out for suspicious activity around your business, you can partner up with each other.

Here are some ways that you can work together with nearby businesses to keep everyone safe:

- Set up a business watch program to keep an eye out for each other
- Create an emergency alert system (text message group, phone tree, etc.) to quickly notify each other of suspicious activity
- Share security camera footage when incidents occur
- Meet regularly to discuss recent security concerns and share information about suspicious activities
- Consider joint investments in security infrastructure that benefit multiple businesses

It is also beneficial to develop positive relationships with residential neighbours so they can keep an eye on your business. This collaborative approach increases the "eyes and ears" protecting your business.

### Designing Security from the Ground Up with CPTED Principles

Physical barriers, such as fencing and



gates, are one of the most common forms of security implemented by businesses, but typically they only delay rather than prevent entry; most barriers will slow criminals by 5 minutes or less. Consider adding more security measures to prevent robberies or vandalism. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is effective in deterring criminals, especially when it is incorporated from the beginning. When designing new industrial spaces or renovating existing commercial ones, consider adding CPTED into your designs.

### Natural Surveillance

- Position windows and doors to maximize visibility of entrances, parking areas, and vulnerable access points
- Design open floor plans with clear sightlines throughout the property
- Install adequate lighting that eliminates dark corners and shadows
- Position high-value inventory and equipment where they can be easily monitored

### Natural Access Control

- Clearly define property boundaries with landscaping, pavement treatments, and signage
- Minimize the number of building entry/exit points
- Direct visitor flow through designated areas that can be easily monitored
- Use thorny or dense vegetation as natural barriers to discourage unwanted access

### Secure Your Area

- Clearly define public, semi-public, and private spaces
- Use design elements (different paving materials, changes in elevation, landscaping) to signal transitions between spaces
- Maintain the property often to show that it is regularly occupied
- Prominently display company signage and logos to establish ownership
- Install fencing and gates to deter criminals

### Target Hardening

- Install quality doors, windows, and locks appropriate to the security risk
- Consider security film for windows to prevent easy break-ins



- Strategically place bollards, concrete planters, or other barriers to prevent vehicle ram-raids

### Technology Solutions for Rural Security

Modern security technology offers powerful tools for rural businesses to overcome the challenges of isolation.

### Remote Monitoring Systems

- Cloud-based video surveillance allows real-time monitoring from anywhere
- Motion-activated cameras with push notifications to your smartphone
- License plate recognition systems track vehicles on your property
- Thermal cameras for nighttime monitoring of large areas

### Alarm Systems

- Cellular-based alarm systems that don't rely on landline connections
- Systems with battery backup for power outage protection
- Motion sensors, glass break detectors, and door/window sensors
- Silent alarm options that don't alert intruders but notify authorities

### Access Control

- Electronic access systems that log all entry/exit activity
- Key fob or card systems that can be quickly deactivated if lost or stolen
- Remote lock/unlock capabilities through mobile applications

### Creating a Security Plan

To keep your commercial or industrial property safe, it helps to have a solid plan in writing. Think about putting together a security plan that covers:

- Identify vulnerabilities in your business location and operations
- Take a record of the physical, technological, and procedural measures in place
- Document clear procedures for different security incidents that could happen
- Outline security awareness and incident response training for all your employees
- Schedule periodic security audits and updates to your plan



## Toolbox Talk



|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Talk Lead By: _____        | Date: _____             |
| Site/Location: _____       | Time: _____             |
| Weather Report/Conditions: |                         |
| _____ High: _____ °C       | Wind Speed: _____ km/hr |
| _____ Low: _____ °C        | Wind Gusts: _____ km/hr |

### Things To Remember About Extreme Cold

Alberta has a severe winter climate which includes extreme cold weather conditions that can affect someone's health. What is problematic is that everyone has a different idea about what extreme cold is and even if everyone agrees that it is extremely cold, there may still be jobs that need to be done outdoors. Remember this information the next time you are planning to work outdoors in the extreme cold.

The wind can make already cold temperatures feel colder; this is called wind chill.

- Generally speaking, the risk of windburn and frostbite increase at wind chill values below -27°C.
- Wind chill causes the body to lose heat quickly and skin to freeze very fast.



### Who is at risk in extreme cold temperatures?

- Anyone working outdoors
- Anyone who is outdoors and not dressed appropriately for the conditions
- Individuals with certain medical conditions (i.e., diabetes, poor blood circulation, and diseases affecting the blood vessels)
- Anyone taking certain types of medications (i.e., beta blockers) or who has consumed alcohol
- Small children, infants, and seniors (65 years and older)

### Ways to reduce your risk when working in extreme cold

- Only work in the extreme cold if it is absolutely necessary.
- Wear appropriate clothing made of synthetic and wool fabrics. Some synthetic fabrics keep perspiration away from your body which keep you dry and further reduce your risk.
- Dress in layers with a wind resistant outer layer. You can remove layers if you get too warm (before you start sweating), add layers if you get cold, and wear a wind resistant outer layer.
- Wear warm socks, gloves, a hat and scarf or balaclava in cold weather. Keeping your nose covered will help protect it.
- Keep your clothing dry; if you get wet, change into dry clothing as soon as possible as it will cause you to lose heat faster.
- Keep moving (especially your hands and feet) to keep your blood flowing and maintain your body heat.
- Do not drink alcohol before you go out into the cold as it may increase your risk of hypothermia. Alcohol increases blood flow to the extremities of the body, which may result in you feeling warm and not recognizing that you are losing heat.

## Avian influenza and small-flock poultry

### What is avian influenza?

Avian influenza (AI), sometimes called "avian flu" or "bird flu," is a contagious viral disease that affects the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous systems of many bird species, including domestic poultry and wild birds.

### Risks for small-flock poultry:

Wild birds can carry avian influenza, and they can pose a risk to your poultry. Avian influenza can cause severe illness and death in your flock.

#### Did you know...?

When wild birds migrate, it increases your poultry's risk of being exposed to disease!

During the migration of wild water birds, the risk increases because there's a greater chance your flock could come into contact with wild birds. Wild birds

rarely show visible signs of the disease, but they can spread the virus to other birds or in the environment through their droppings, and through their mouth and nose.

If your birds contract avian influenza, it can also create a greater risk of the disease spreading to neighbouring flocks or to commercial poultry.

### How to help protect your flock:

You can take steps to reduce the risk to your flock from avian influenza, such as reducing or eliminating contact with wild birds.

#### Reduce contact with wild birds:

- Keep your flock away from dugouts and other surface water.
- Keep birds inside or penned, if possible.
- Keep wild birds away from your feeders and waterers (such as through netting or wire fencing), or feed your birds inside. Clean up spilled feed so it doesn't attract wild birds.

#### Did you know...?

"Biosecurity" means steps you can take to protect animals, people, or plants from harmful organisms, such as viruses like avian influenza.

**Viruses can be transmitted by people, poultry and other animals, equipment, and in the environment.**

- Clean your hands, clothing and footwear before and after handling birds.
- Don't share equipment with other bird owners.
- Consider limiting visitors' access to your birds.
- Ensure the feed and water you use is free from wild bird droppings, or use a water treatment program like chlorination.

## Avian influenza and small-flock poultry

### If you see signs of disease:

#### Call your local veterinarian.

Spotting avian influenza and reporting it quickly is critical to protect your birds and other flocks. If you see any symptoms, contact your veterinarian so action is taken as soon as possible. In fact, there is a legal requirement to notify a veterinarian or the government if you suspect a serious disease like AI.

Alberta Agriculture also has a program where small-flock owners or their veterinarians can submit birds for disease testing, **at no cost**. Call 403-948-8575 to find out how to participate.

#### Symptoms to watch for:

- Sudden drop in egg production.
- Swelling around the head, neck and eyes.
- Coughing, gasping, sneezing, diarrhea.
- Trembling, lack coordination, odd head position.
- Changes in food and water consumption.
- Sudden death or a large number of deaths.

Symptoms can vary, so it's better to be cautious and report any birds that might be sick.

**Know the risks. Take action.  
Report signs of disease.**

**Help protect your poultry and the small-flock community.**

### More biosecurity tips:

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry brochure <http://bit.ly/1JoLfNr>
- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association [www.abvma.ca/biosecurity/smallflock.asp](http://www.abvma.ca/biosecurity/smallflock.asp)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) <http://bit.ly/1UfCyYZ>

#### Did you know...?

Alberta small-flock poultry owners are required to have a Premises Identification (PID) Number.

PID links animals with a location, and it can be used to contact animal owners in the case of an emergency, like a natural disaster or disease outbreak.

To register, visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 4-5, 2026**

The Alberta Beef Industry Conference is one of Canada's largest beef convention and tradeshows, hosted by five beef industry organizations in the province; Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, Alberta Auction Markets Association, Alberta Livestock Dealers and Order Buyers Association, and the Western Stock Growers Association. These organizations recognize the importance of coming together to address issues and concerns of regional, national and international scope. To Register Visit: <https://www.abiconference.ca/homepage/register/>



## Farming Smarter 2026 Conference & Trade Show

**Event Date:** February 11  
**Event Type:** Conference  
**Experience:** In-Person  
**Location:** Lethbridge  
**Starting Price:** \$250.00  
**Time:** 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

agriculture community to come together and share knowledge, brainstorm ideas, and make connections. Plus, you can listen to our experts share updates on Farming Smarter's research from this year!

Farming Smarter's Conference & Trade Show brings the brightest minds and innovative thinkers of southern Alberta's agriculture community together for engaging presentations and deep conversation.

The 2026 Farming Smarter Conference & Trade Show is ONE DAY ONLY  
A great opportunity for southern Alberta's

FOREMOST

## Range Science Forum

*Celebrating Rangelands:  
honouring the past and looking forward to the future*

Date & Time

**11 December 2025**

09:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Location

**Foremost Community Hall**

802 – 1 Avenue West, Foremost, Alberta

Topics to include:

- history of range management & research in AB
- drought planning; post-wildfire management
- precision ranching; heat stress & animal behavior
- annual brome grass control
- and much more!

IN-PERSON

FCC  
**YOUNG FARMER  
SUMMIT**



**February 25, 2026 – Lethbridge and District Exhibition**

**Supercharge your farm management skills!**

Join us for this exciting, free, full-day event aimed at farmers under 40 to enhance your farm management skills. Hosted by Olympian and rancher Sage Walker, each program event features keynote speaker Tom Deans and covers practical topics.

Register for a summit near you: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/cc/fcc-young-farmer-summit-2980199>

## FARMER PESTICIDE CERTIFICATE COURSE



### Upcoming Dates

December 11, 2025  
January 15, 2026  
January 29, 2026

### Location and Time

County of Warner  
Ag Service Board Meeting Room  
8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

**The Cost is \$65 – this covers the course materials and lunch.**

**Registration is Required**

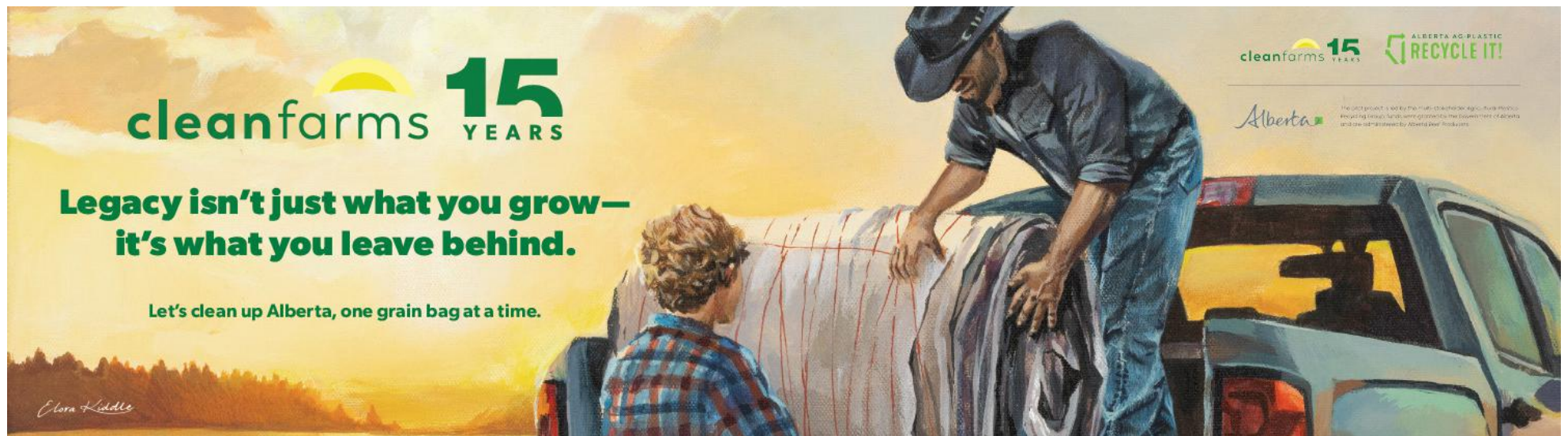
The Farmer Pesticide Certification course is a tool intended to help farmers to reduce risks associated with pesticide use and is mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require a certificate. Pesticides play a vital role in modern farming in Alberta. Used properly, they are an effective method of protecting crops and livestock. However, if used incorrectly, these chemicals have the potential to cause serious harm to people and the environment. It is therefore essential that farmers use pesticides in the most professional manner, to ensure that unintended adverse effects are kept to a minimum.

**Who Needs to be Certified?** • Any farmer that wishes to apply restricted chemicals to their grain or land, i.e. Weevil-Cide • Any farmer who has a certificate that was issued prior to 2019 wishes to continue using restricted chemicals needs to retake the course.

**Why do I need to re-take the course?** Under new priorities and legislation, the Farmer Pesticide Course is no longer under the direction of Lakeland or Olds Colleges. A new course has been designed that expires 5 years after the date the certificate is issued. There is not a condensed re-certification course, only the original core course that needs to be re-taken every 5 years.

**For Questions or to Register please contact the Agriculture Service Board  
403.647.2255**





## Grain Bag & Twine RECYCLING PROGRAM

Grain bags which must be empty, clean, tightly rolled, and tied. Twine, which must be clean, loosely placed in Cleanfarms recycling bags (Available from the County of Warner Ag Service Board) or bulk tote bags.

If you have any questions, please contact at the Ag Service Board at 403-642-2255.

All drop offs **MUST** be scheduled so we can ensure to have staff and equipment available to unload your plastics.



## Cleanfarms' ag chem jug recycling program!

The County of Warner Sunshine and Border Pesticide Container Sites are closed effective **December 31, 2024.**

Your local ag retailer will be the primary drop-off location for these containers.

### Local Ag Retailers

**CORE** AG INPUTS  
Core Ag Inputs, Warner AB  
Ph. (587) 762-0122

**Nutrien** Ag Solutions™  
Nutrien Ag Solutions, Warner AB  
Ph. (403) 642-3951

**Parrish & Heimbecker**  
Parrish & Heimbecker, Milk River AB  
Ph. (403) 647-3633

**RICHARDSON PIONEER**  
Richardson Pioneer, Stirling AB  
Ph. (403) 756-3452



cleanfarms  
cleanfarms.ca | 403-942-6012

### Grain Bags and Twine Prepare it Properly

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>✓ Yes!</b><br/>Machine Rolled &amp; Secured with Twine</p> <p><b>Clean &amp; Bagged Twine</b></p> | <p><b>✗ No Thanks!</b></p> <div> <p><b>Hand-Rolled Bags</b></p> </div> <div> <p><b>Loose Drop-Offs</b></p> </div> <div> <p><b>Silage Tarps or Other</b></p> </div> |
|   | <div> <p><b>Net Wrap</b></p> </div> <div> <p><b>Nylon Rope/Sisal Twine</b></p> </div> <div> <p><b>Hay or Other Material</b></p> </div>                             |

**COUNTY OF WARNER**  
COUNTY OF WARNER  
AG SERVICE BOARD SHOP  
SE-15-4-17 W4M  
403-642-2255  
warnercounty.ca

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO SCHEDULE  
A DROP OFF COLLECTING GRAIN BAGS & TWINE**

**Alberta** The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.